

WASHRAG

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VOLUME 21 ISSUE 09
SEPTEMBER 2019

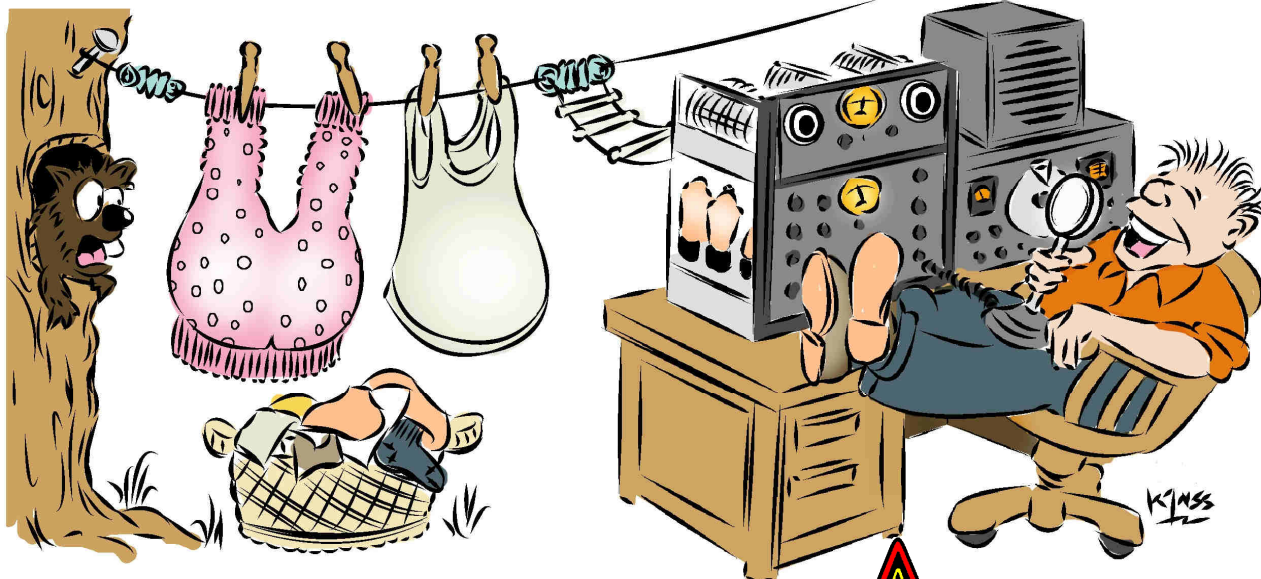
Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 Issue 09

SEPTEMBER 2019

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, September 5th, 2019

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, September 5th 2019**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Subjects for the meeting include the Pa QSO 2019, and upcoming plans for the rest of 2019 and 2020.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Seen in the Flea Market at the 2019 inaugural DX Engineering Hamfest

Cover Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2019 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2020 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test October 17th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 17th, 2019, 7:00 PM**, at the **WPXI Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn at n3sh dot org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
Pen / Pencil / Calculator
Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: February 23rd, 2020

Tony's Musings

Well Summer is almost over so I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy some outdoor operating.

I'd like to congratulate one of our own. Bob Mente NU3Q was just appointed ARES Allegheny County Emergency Coordinator, Bob will be bringing some fresh ideas to the role. It has been a pleasure serving beside you Bob these many years and I'm honored to serve under you for many years to come. Thanks Bob for stepping up for this role.

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH



Our sympathies to the family & friends of Joseph Areyzaga K1JGA, who died when the tower he was helping Michael Rancourt K1EEE dismantle, collapsed with both of them on it.

Details on the cause of the tragedy have not been revealed.

A sad reminder that whenever you are doing any type of tower work, Safety First, Second, & Third...

Inspect EVERYTHING holding the tower up, and all of your safety gear, before you or anyone else begins to step foot on it!

August 31st, the start of Labor Day weekend and the beginning of the end of the summer... and also the annual W3PIE Gabfest at the Uniontown ARC... which once again brings together the **WASH Breakfast Gang**, meeting again at Eat 'N Park, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray. This month the Gang was represented by W3WH, K3HCR, KB3DCO, KB3JHR, K3VX & W3WN. Food and coffee flowed, along with topics including professional examiners for a home, selling Mom's house, Corvette vs Miata — like the power, but you can't put a mag mount on a 'Vette! — trading cars, CD's for car NAV systems, drone pictures of the house, hurricanes landfall, salt water damage @ the beach, computer networks, 'The Sleeve' vs. Gastric Bypass surgery, stealth antennas in a condo, renting a place for August because Florida is way too hot & humid, Pa QSO antennas, Millennials & \$2 bills, phone technology in Europe... and a ton more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on September 28th, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, please let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

Correction: last month's issue incorrectly identified, due to a misunderstanding, the location of the antennas that Glen KE7FD and Bob N3RDG were erecting. The antennas are Bob's and located at his QTH, no matter how much Glen wishes they were his. Our apologies to Bob for the misunderstanding. (Glen? He's on his own)

A timely reminder... if you notice **interference on the 146.955 repeater**, please make sure you log the date & time and a summary of what you may have heard, and let Tony KB3BYA know. As many of you know, there have been reports of encroachment from users of a repeater on the same frequency in an adjacent state. If it reaches the point where something will need to be said, we (ie Tony, as Club Prez) needs to have something more than "we think we heard something." Certainly no reason why we can't all co-exist, but if a problem crops up, the sooner we can address it and resolve it, the better.

So what's up next? A few more fall hamfests, some contests and other activities, and then the **2019 Pennsylvania QSO Party**. Stay tuned! (And work on your antennas, while you can!) As we write this, Pa QSO is roughly 6 weeks away. It's always been a fun event, and **WASH** has been well represented over the years by its members. So if you have plans, make sure that you drop a note to Bud Trench AA3B so that you can be listed as one of the stations to be looked for... and if you need some help, let the club members know. If you haven't made plans yet but are interested, ask one of the groups from the club operating... don't worry about your license class, if you want to operate and have a great time, we WILL find a way to accommodate you!

(Speaking of hamfests, W3WN is looking to share a car ride and a table for this weekend's Butler Co ARA Swap 'n' Shop, please contact him if interested or available.)

Had a chance at the W3PIE Gabfest to chat with "Radio Free" Bob WC3O about next years **KDKA Centennial Special Event Station (S)**, the end of October and beginning of November 2020. Bob tells us that the 1x1 calls have been reserved, but otherwise plans are still being worked on. Anyone interested in helping out on the event, be it a planner or an operator, should contact Bob ... or better yet, join the Groups.io discussion group he's setup for just that purpose. Sad to say, there are rumors floating around... think of them as Fake News... regarding the planning. The event WILL be open to all SWPA amateur radio operators who want to participate, regardless of which club (if any) they belong to. Anyone who tells you otherwise is spreading false information, unintended or otherwise.

Plans are also in the works for activating Dr. Frank Conrad's old call (which later became the 'experimental' Westinghouse call for the KDKA Shortwave transmitters) **8XK** and later **W8XK**, throughout the course of 2020, even if it won't be part of the "official" celebration outside of the Special Event dates. These activations, when they happen, will also be open to all SWPA operators. More on that in the coming months.

Finally, we're not entirely sure when Paul NØVLR took the photo right, but it does go back a ways. We'd point out that Paul indicated that this archival retrieval might **frighten children** today... all we can say is Paul, remember, Kevin N3KFD operates Pa QSO with you... & knows where you sleep...



Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 21

Minutes, August 1st Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Call to Order: 19:02 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence: Silent Keys & Others

Number of Members Present: 20; Numbers of Guests: 0;

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV) via email; [Notes: Tony Romano (KB3BYA) reporting.] Motion to Accept: Ron (W3WN); Seconded by: Jim (WB4GCS); Passed: Yes.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU) : Are there any corrections to the Minutes: No. Motion to Accept By: Carol (KB3GMN); Seconded by: Ron (W3RON) Passed: Yes

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB): Jim (WB4GCS) NET is Stable, will try to do baseline measurements, experiencing interference – suspect WV;

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Glen (KE7FD) handful of operators,

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX): VHF contest, 6 meters & up; Roving;

PAQSO Party – October 12th & 13th; Somerset club hosting Bonus Station

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYU) Great Race end of September, Bike Ride September 14th.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): published

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): No candidates at July exam; Next scheduled: October.

Ways & Means: Carol Danko (KB3GMN): WASH Hamfest – add'l expenses expected for wrist bands, tickets, misc; Motion: Jim (WB4GCS) to purchase Flex 6400 M for prize, Harold (K3HCR) seconded, carried.

Membership Contributions: (KB3GMN):

President's Report: Expressed great appreciation for member participation at Field Day.

Old Business: Paul (NØVLR) reported the results following borrowing the club's antenna trailer were good.

New Business:

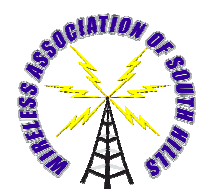
- Insurance issues surrounding borrowing the club's trailer: currently have \$500K limit; borrowers can be additional insureds; club can insure borrower, should obtain release, borrowing parties must demonstrate experience in hauling a 3,000 lb. trailer, must offer orientation on how to set up and take down antenna; guidelines should be posted, Carol (KB3GMN) Motion to ask Rick Bell to write protocol, Ron (W3WN) 2nd – Passed;
- Curtis and Dan to assist in developing PowerPoint using photos taken at 2019 Field Day.

Good of the Order:

- Antenna ID' as Glen's in the August newsletter was Bob's.
- Glen and Curtis to drive to DX Engineering for DXE Hamfest on August 11th. Anyone who'd like to join them, please contact Glen.
- Bill Hill (W3WH) received a 9 Band DXCC Award plaque, including 160 meters achieved this past winter. CONGRATULATIONS Bill! You are an inspiration!

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Carol (KB3GMN) Seconded: Larry (K3VX)

Meeting Adjourned: 19:57 hours



WASH Spotlight: Gabfest



Seen on August 31st at the Uniontown ARC W3PIE Gabfest:

Carol KB3GMN, Charmel, and Chuck KC3ELA

More August WPA area Hamfest pictures starting on Page 10!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3GM
AB3NM
K3CMU
K3GW
K3HCR
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3DCO
KB3GMN
KB3GMU
KB3IAC
KB3IVX

KB3JHR
KB3ORO
KB3YCX
KC3ELA
KC3GMM
KC3MLC
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3FB
N3KFD
N3RDG
N3RDV

N3SBF
N3TDV
N3ZK
NU3Q
W3LE
W3RON
W3WH
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WA3WXR
WB4GCS
WO3Z

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
W4ZE
WASH NE
NØPEU
W3LE
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH OH
N8DPW

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through July 3rd, 2019

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2019–2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

September 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
September 8 th	Butler Co ARA Swapfest	Unionville Fire Hall, 102 Mahood Road, Butler PA 16001
October 3 rd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
October 12 th –13 th	63 rd Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqso.org
October 17 th	<i>WASH</i> VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
October 26 th –27 th	CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB	https://www.cqww.com
November 2 nd –4 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 3 rd	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington PA
November 7 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
November 16 th –18 th	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	http://www.arrl.org
November 23 rd –24 th	CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW	https://www.cqww.com
December 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
December 6 th –8 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 14 th –15 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 22 nd	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW	http://www.arrl.org
December 28 th –29 th	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	http://www.kkn.net/stew/
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
February 23 rd	<i>WASHFest 2020</i>	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park 15129

"Seen" at the August Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



Editor's Note: There has been a lot of controversy over the last few years on how certain digital modes are being used on the air, and how these concerns should be handled. There are many disagreements over said what, who meant what, who did what, and so forth. The recent petition now being evaluated by the FCC as RM-11708 is no exception.

We approached many people involved in the controversy with a simple offer... write a short op-ed article, one page or less, explaining their position, for an audience that was not familiar with all the background noted above.

The articles on this page and the next are what we received by the newsletter deadline.

They are presented in the order received, unedited outside of some minor formatting issues to fit them in the newsletter.

Disclaimer: Please note that the opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors, and do not represent the opinions of the **WASHRag** editors or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**.

RM-11831, ARRL Negotiations, and the ARRL FCC Filing

Ron Kolarik KØIDT

Lincoln, NE, August 26th, 2019 – A brief summary of the controversy surrounding RM-11831, ARRL negotiations, and the final ARRL FCC filing.

I wrote the FCC [RM-11831](#) petition to address two very specific Part 97 rules, 97.221(c) and 97.309(a)(4). The petition was never about a single mode or system, unfortunately one group missed the broader intent and made it all about a single mode and system.

The first issue is the digital stations allowed to operate under automatic control anywhere in the RTTY/Data sub bands, as long as they are <500Hz bandwidth, and only respond to a live operator query, 97.221(c). They will pop up unannounced on top of live QSO's due to poor operator practice and ineffective use of "busy channel" detectors. The fact that these stations can be anywhere in the RTTY/Data sub bands makes it difficult to predict where, and when, one will be activated. The intent of RM-11831 was to put all of these automatic (ACDS) stations in defined (97.221(b)), contiguous spectrum, as per the [IARU Region 2 bandplan](#). A single narrow slice of known spectrum is easier to avoid than trying to guess where the next ACDS station will fire up.

The second issue the RM addressed was clarifying what constituted, "a technique whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly", 97.309(a)(4), by requiring developers to provide a decoder for their protocol. This would simplify the documentation requirement and allow developers to keep some portion, or all of their code proprietary, *if they provide a receive only decoder*, ideally open source, but proprietary closed source would be acceptable. Amateurs can not achieve self-policing if a digital mode is closed to monitoring by all hams and the public in general. There are currently very few digital modes that can't be monitored over the air by simply owning the equipment, software, or third party decoding packages. D-Star, Fusion, P25, etc. can all be monitored over the air.

ARSFI/Winlink (Amateur Radio Safety Foundation Inc.) perceived the RM as a direct attack on their system and generated a large volume of FCC opposition comments with their [letter](#) to the emcomm and off-shore boating communities. They objected to integrating the 97.221(c) stations into the ACDS sub bands, regarding them as "pollution", and being "forced" to provide decoders for Winlink modes that can not be monitored over the air, due to Winlink's method of digitally compressing message content. As of this writing there is promising decoder development work being done by [KX4O](#) for Pactor variants, independent of Winlink, but in it's current state it's not practical for general everyday use. The manufacturer of [SCS Pactor](#) modems has offered to develop and provide a decoder (soundcard based) for use by the new ARRL VM's, it's unclear if the software would be available to all amateurs.

The ARRL negotiations and FCC filing.

ARRL got involved as a way to move along the stalled [RM-11708/WT 16-239](#) baud rate petitions, which are not directly related to RM-11831, but those two petitions would allow new modes that could be affected by 11831. ARRL arranged a teleconference to resolve the differences between ARSFI/Winlink, my small group, and a representative from NYU. Consensus was reached on elimination of 97.221(c) in exchange for expanded ACDS sub bands, and protected spectrum for <500Hz modes operating outside the ACDS sub bands. The negotiations failed on the point of requiring all digital modes to be openly decoded over the air, with ARSFI/Winlink stating their recently opened "message viewer window" was an adequate substitute for over the air monitoring, but provided no guarantees the viewer would remain open after the FCC determines the outcome of the pending petitions. There was no discussion of future modes, or requiring a "viewer" for other modes not open to over the air monitoring. Our [initial proposal](#) was made public on the FCC ECFS. complete with proposed band plan (attachment 1). ARSFI has not made their position available publicly for review.

Since RM-11831 became available for comment the following things have been done by ARSFI, none of which addressed the goals of RM-11831.

1. Opened a message database "window" for licensed hams to view *some* Winlink messages.
2. Added forced CW ID to their software.
3. Added forced "busy detection".
4. Started enforcing 3rd party message forwarding, and other Part 97 rules.
5. Disallowed messages to/from countries the US has no 3rd party agreement with, different from #4.
6. Using automated methods to scan traffic on their system, a control operator function, for prohibited content.

ARRL filing

The ARRL has yet to file formal recommendations to the FCC, but from the board of directors minutes the following is what they propose.

1. All ACDS, and >500Hz bandwidth digital modes, confined to the current HF ACDS sub bands.
2. Impose a 2.8kHz bandwidth limit on digital modes below 29MHz.
3. Removal of the 300 baud digital "speed limit".
4. General statement on encryption and obscured communications.

I'll leave it up to readers to make up their own mind about what got us to this point, all the information is in the above article, and I would encourage anyone interested to do some further research into what has been presented.

I would like to thank Ron W3WN, for the editorial opportunity to get some actual facts out without all the drama experienced on other forums.



RM-11831 & Attacks on WinLink Damaging to Amateur Radio

Gordon L. Gibby MD KX4Z

Newberry, FL, August 27th, 2019 – Disclaimer: I am not part of the WINLINK Development Team; my positions are my own. A fully referenced copy is available here: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/ResponseEditorial.pdf>

Ron Kolarik KØ1DT petitioned the FCC asking for changes to 97.221(c) and 97.309(a)(4) and a firestorm of debate resulted. I was invited to write an editorial explaining why the items Ron asked for were not the best way forward for amateur radio.

Citing several instances of anecdotal evidence, Ron (1) asked for 97.221(c) to be stricken from the FCC regulations,

97.221 (c) Except for channels specified in§ 97.303(h), a station may be automatically controlled while transmitting a RTTY or data emission on any other frequency authorized for such emission types provided that:

- (1) The station is responding to interrogation by a station under local or remote control; and
- (2) No transmission from the automatically controlled station occupies a bandwidth of more than 500Hz.

and (2) asked for 97.309(a)(4) to be re-written in what he termed a "[p]roposed language simplification":

(4) An amateur station transmitting a RTTY or data emission using a digital code specified in this paragraph may use any technique whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly, such as CLOVER, G-TOR, or PACTOR, and the protocol used can be monitored, in it's entirety, by 3rd parties, with freely available open source software, for the purpose of facilitating communications.

The ARRL Board of Directors then took action to go even farther than Ron's request #1 – to recommend not only the effective elimination of 97.221(c), but also that no digital signals of any type wider than 500 Hz be employed anywhere outside the 97.221(b) slivers of frequencies-- by anyone, human or computer. That would put strict new limits on literally scores of modes that amateurs had been enjoying in FLDIGI or Ham Radio Deluxe.

These proposals are completely unwarranted by the actual data, and damage both current and future amateur radio.

First, anyone can come up with a list of incidents of interference. We call such complaints "anecdotal" and all of us encounter them in our daily lives. To determine if they require significant effort or change, we ask the simple question -- "How often does this occur-- how damaging is it really?" Since Ron's petition didn't answer that question, I went to work, by examining records of exactly how many minutes WINLINK 97.221(c) narrow-500-Hz stations were actually transmitting in a 2-week sample. Recall that these stations do not broadcast at all on their own – they only answer when an amateur calls them. They don't give the "time" or ID spontaneously like an automatic 2-meter repeater does. An amateur, having listened for use of the frequency by regulation, has to call them. The WINLINK system even checks on its own, and points out if the frequency appears to be in use. But let's assume worst-case that in EVERY instance the amateur failed to check. It turns out that of the available time/bandwidth in two weeks, the entire usage of all American winlink 97.221(c) stations were **0.012 OF ONE PERCENT** on the 40 meter band and **0.000319 OF ONE PERCENT** of the 20 meter band. In other words – near absolute zero. The anecdotal evidence that there is any real interference issue is demolished. What was bothering Ron and others? Possibly foreign stations (not affected by USA regulations) or maybe something they simply couldn't identify. New regulations will only affect USA 97.221(c) stations.

BENEFIT LOST: The existence of those stations was a pre-arranged "safety valve" in the event of large disaster where the 97.221(b) tiny slivers were overwhelmed. That will now disappear. Sure, "cries for help" on 20 meters do need to be in voice or cw – but more and more, disaster response is moving to higher organization, with defined communication techniques, not addressed by the proponents.

MORE DOWNSIDE: Eliminating 97.221(c) has significant unrecognized untoward effects on existing and future exciting developments completely apart from WINLINK. JS8 (for example) also relies on 97.221(c) for its very useful **AUTO features, allowing the auto-Heartbeat response, and even utilization of other stations to relay your message to a distant station that you can't hear yourself** (somewhat like a digipeater). Those stations are only 50 Hz wide --- but now they will be forced to move in with "the big boys" and there will be dramatically more problems for both. Who will want to develop in this environment?

So – there wasn't a problem in the first place, and Ron's request, and the ARRL's request will only cause new problems. Good idea?

97.309 Emissions: The changes Ron urged for 97.309 have very bad outcomes also. First, many may not realize that CLOVER and G-TOR were actually **proprietary**! FCC and amateurs were quite happy with them and explicitly wrote them into their regulations because **hams were using them**. Ron would have that precedent erased. In Ron's new world, you will no longer get anything developed by any hams or companies whose development requires anything more than a PC for computing. Advanced protocols like RTTY, Packet, Slow-Scan all clearly benefited from advanced (and at the time, expensive) hardware because the existing PC's were simply not capable, yet those signals were a huge advance for amateur radio. Analogous **developments will never happen again**. If you can't run it on an existing pc or cell phone.....and give it away for free – it will never be developed. Do you favor that precedent? Could that precedent be later applied to transceivers? What if no one could purchase an ICOM, or KENWOOD, or BAOFENG – because the precedent got generalized to radios as well -- nothing allowed that isn't open source and freely available. See where this goes?

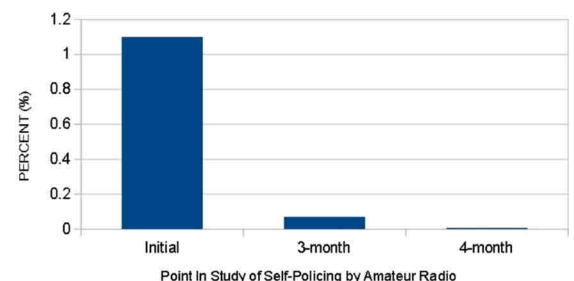
NO BASIS. But the true facts don't even support Ron's complaints. Proponents alleged large amounts of violations in the WINLINK system, and a national security risk, and **an inability to do self-policing** – even after the WINLINK Development Team responded with an interface to the first-ever publicly-available worldwide, distributed, networked, multi-modal receiver--- but the resulting self-enforcement revealed an initial incidence of "objectionable" (possibly not even violative) emails of **1.1%**. Within three months it had dropped an order of magnitude, and in another month it dropped yet another order of magnitude. Most recent: 1 out of 15,000. Impossible to self-police?

Serious Allegations. The Petitioner and other, even famous, proponents have alleged that WINLINK is "effectively encrypted" and thus cannot be read. This would be startling news to the Frenchman who first developed these protocols, Jean-Paul Roubelat F6FBB! He started in 1986 and his public source code of 1999 can still be downloaded. At any point, anyone could have developed reader software. To prove the error of their assertions, John Huggins KX4O used brute-force keyboard cut and paste (with a small bit of advice from me) **to prove that a WINLINK message could be read**, succeeding after 17 weeks. I'm a nearly retired anesthesiologist, not a professional programmer, but I then built on his work, and **created freely available reader software on a \$35 raspberry PI that connects to Pactor 7400 or 7800 and read WINLINK** – in 25 days. Interested persons can take this code and begin to apply it to any WINLINK inexpensive soundcard mode. I had to read 20 year old information to succeed.

So in conclusion – WINLINK is now the only portion of amateur radio with documented, and astonishing adherence to regulations (compare that to your local repeater or 75 meter band), and PACTOR WINLINK (any any other mode that people seriously wish to read) can (and always could--the necessary information was public) be read right off the air. It is easier to use the freely available distributed receiver viewer. There are no data proving any wide-spread interference problem from 97.221(c) and the proposed "cure" causes really bad problems, more than I can discuss in short pages. The proposed attempts to derail the 30-year history of successful advances in amateur radio signal development, by limiting it to "free software" (**no hardware**) **are even worse--** they significantly damage the future of amateur radio advancement, and would have made impossible the hardware advances that spurred RTTY, packet, slow-scan and other modes' early development.

Percent (%) of WINLINK Messages Deemed Objectionable

(Judged by the WINLINK Terms & Conditions)



Demonstration of wildly successful self-policing, self-enforcement actions taken by collaborative effort of proponents of RM-11831 & WinLink Development Team. The "1" is ONE PERCENT.

Is It Worth It?

Bill Hill W3WH



At this month's Club Breakfast Harold K3HCR, asked me if all the time effort and money spent on installing a new antenna for 160 meters has been worth it. That's a very reasonable question considering that the antenna I have allowed me to reach 160 meter DXCC.

The antenna is essentially finished now and the analyzer numbers look very promising but I won't know if it's been worth it until 160 season arrives later this fall and I can evaluate on the air results. I suppose I'm always looking for an excuse to change something within my abilities and antennas and rigs fit this criteria. The principal motivation for a new antenna is that I'm trying to achieve more consistency in my results as opposed to fighting for every QSO on 160, other than domestic contacts.

The antenna that's been good to me so far is a 43' vertical equipped with lots of ground radials and two 45' top wires. Coupled with a 500 watt amp it's been getting the job done albeit with lots of time and effort invested in most QSOs.

I've been thinking about what I could do to make things better since early Spring of this year. My limitations include a small lot. I concluded that my best bet would be to try to get a bit more height with the same 45' top wires and I decided to use a folded counterpoise instead of ground radials. A folded counterpoise is a substitute for ground radials (or elevated radials) for that matter designed by K2AV for his friend WØUCE in 2012 after the friend moved from a large property with lots of antenna room to a small suburban lot. The counterpoise is 66' wide and consists of 166' of wire installed at 10' above ground running back and forth. Two 66' runs and one 33' run. It is used in conjunction with an isolation transformer to squash any common mode currents.

There's lots of info on the folded counterpoise on the internet if you're curious. Most of the internet references assume that you're going to use an inverted L antenna, but according to K2AV my top loaded vertical works well with a FCP.

Just before Xenia (Hamvention) 2019, I purchased a 60' Spiderbeam mast, which I thought would give me a bit more height and combined with a FCP would help me achieve better results on 160. As it turned out, once the mast is fully extended with guys and top wires attached plus the actual antenna it becomes an unmanageable piece of spaghetti. Once during installation Jim WO3Z and I actually got everything in place only to discover that the rope connected to the antenna had pulled out of the pulley at the top of the mast. Murphy had arrived.

After numerous attempts to redo the installation we gave up on the mast and decided to shoot a line over a tree. Murphy hadn't left. At least three lines of monofilament fishing line were lost or broken. Grrr. A couple days later Jim brought over his bow and arrow. Every time he shot an arrow it got so high that the wind grabbed it and took it someplace where it was of no value to the antenna. However, we didn't give up, and FINALLY, we got a line over the right tree that we could use.

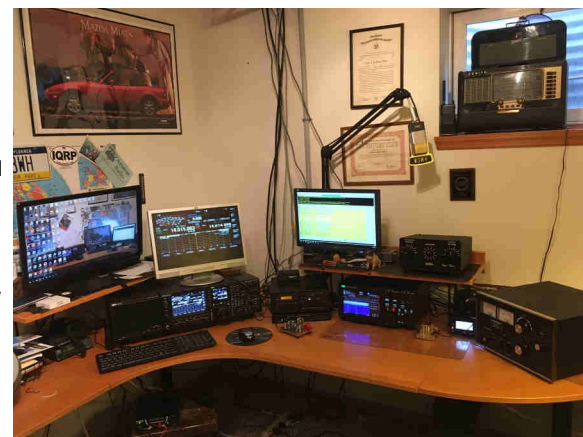
So after connecting everything, I found out that the antenna is too short. Next came experimenting with a couple different coils and taps to find the "sweet spot". At this point, I think we're there with the antenna showing a radiation resistance of 48 and X of 3 at 1.825 along with a flat SWR. Hallelujah!!

Altogether I and Harold K3HCR and Jim WO3Z invested almost two months working on this thing.

I've worked a couple of guys, but both of them were in the US. Reports from the Reverse Beacon Network are encouraging, but as I said earlier, the proof won't come until the band opens regularly to Europe and the Pacific.

Was it worth it? Yes I think so. I learned a few things and I believe the antenna has the potential to outperform my previous vertical.

Stay tuned for a progress report.



W3WH Shack Configuration, August 2019

144-148 MHz Removed From French Proposal for Additional Aeronautical Applications

American Radio Relay League, International Amateur Radio Union

Newington, CT, August 30th, 2019 – The 144 – 146 MHz Amateur Radio segment has been removed from a French proposal to study spectrum additional for Aeronautical Mobile Service (AMS) applications. France had included the band, which comprises the entire 2 meter band in ITU Region 1, for consideration as a European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations (CEPT) position for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19). Heading into a just-ended CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) meeting in Turkey this past week, France was holding firm on the proposal to have AMS share 144 – 146 MHz with Amateur Radio. The CPG meeting considered CEPT ECC positions on this and other issues for WRC-19.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) had called the French proposal for 144 – 146 MHz "unsound" and contended that sharing of the current amateur allocation with AMS radio systems would not be possible "without a significant likelihood of mutual interference."

The French spectrum study proposal would have had to gain approval from at least 10 CEPT countries at the CPG meeting — with not more than 6 opposing — to appear on the agendas of WRC-19 and WRC-23, where a final decision would be made.

Also at the CEPT meeting, at the insistence of the European Commission, a WRC-23 agenda item was considered necessary to address world-wide protection of Regional Navigational Satellite Systems (RNSS) from amateur emissions in the 23 centimeter band, 1240 – 1300 MHz. Delegates agreed to a draft WRC Resolution that stresses the importance of the band to the Amateur Service and explicitly excludes the removal of existing allocations as part of the proposed agenda item. The issue stems from reported incidents of interference to the Galileo GPS E6 signal on 1278.750 MHz.

Other Amateur Radio-related issues addressed at the CEPT CPG included:

- * Agreement to a European Common Proposal (ECP) on allocating 50 – 52 MHz to the Amateur Service in Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East) on a secondary basis, with a footnote listing those countries where the Amateur Service will have a primary allocation in the band 50 – 50.5 MHz (WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.1).
- * Agreement to an ECP on spectrum to be considered for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), which does not now include the primary Amateur Radio band at 47 – 47.2 GHz (WRC Agenda Item 1.13).
- * Agreement to an ECP that retains the current regulatory position in the 5725 – 5850 MHz band that includes secondary Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite allocations (WRC Agenda Item 1.16).

No change to an already agreed upon CEPT position on wireless power transmission (WRC Agenda item 9.1.6). This calls for no change in the *Radio Regulations* to address the question of operating frequency for wireless power transmission for electric vehicle charging (WPT-EV), but leaves open the question of spurious emissions from WPT-EV.

IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie G3BJ, said that the IARU team at Ankara — the only representatives of the Amateur Service at the meeting — had presented clear and convincing arguments for Amateur Radio positions and that he was pleased that regulators had recognized the strength of the amateur case. He expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the outcome at CPG.

"Seen" at the DX Engineering Hamfest

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN





"Seen" at the W3PIE Gabfest

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



“Seen” at the W3PIE Gabfest

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



Newington, CT, August 19th, 2019 – Following the direction of the ARRL Board of Directors, ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts. These changes also apply to the Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), VHF/UHF Century Club, and Fred Fish W5FF Memorial awards. The changes are effective immediately.

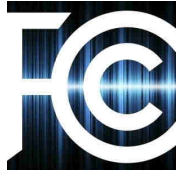
A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to “growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed” for contest and DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either local or remote. – American Radio Relay League

FCC Grants Temporary Waiver Permitting Use of PACTOR 4 for Hurricane Response & Relief

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 2nd, 2019 – The FCC has granted ARRL's emergency request for a temporary waiver to permit **only those radio amateurs active and involved in Hurricane Dorian response and relief efforts** to use the PACTOR 4 digital protocol on HF. **The waiver is valid through 2100 UTC on Friday, September 6th.** The waiver request was necessary because Section 97.307(f) of the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules limits digital data emissions of Amateur stations operating below 28 MHz to a symbol rate not to exceed 300 bauds, and in the 10-meter band (28.0 – 28.3 MHz) to a symbol rate not to exceed 1200 bauds, which precludes PACTOR 4 emissions.

"PACTOR 4 is a data protocol that permits relatively high-speed data transmission in the HF bands, and many amateur stations active in emergency communications preparedness are capable of using this protocol," ARRL told the FCC. The FCC granted a waiver for the use of PACTOR 4 during the 2017 Hurricane Maria relief effort, and more recently in preparing for typhoon relief communications in Hawaii. ARRL told the FCC that the higher-data rates offered by PACTOR 4 are "critical to sending hurricane relief communications, including lists of needed and distributed supplies."



The PACTOR 4 waiver only applies to radio amateurs directly engaged in hurricane relief efforts involving the US mainland. It does not extend to non-emergency communications.

ARRL pointed out that stations involved in Hurricane Dorian response and relief efforts must be able to communicate with one another as well as with federal stations on the five-channels on the 5 MHz band involved with the SHARES network and other interoperability partners on those frequencies, ARRL told the FCC.

FEMA has announced Channel 2 (5348 kHz channel center) of the 60 meter band will be made available, as necessary for digital interoperability between federal government stations and US Amateur Radio stations involved in Hurricane Dorian emergency communications. (Channel 1 will be available for SSB interoperability.)

ARRL noted that its PACTOR 4 waiver request to the FCC was "without prejudice to the resolution of Docket 16-239 which is presently pending and addresses the rule section discussed herein."

ARRL had requested a 30-day waiver, but the FCC said it would entertain requests for an extension of the waiver on an as-needed basis.

DX Engineering—First Hamfest

David Jones N3IL

Powell, OH, August 10th, 2019 – DX Engineering hosted their first hamfest today, Saturday 10 August, at their shared facility with Summit Racing Equipment in Tallmadge, Ohio. The executive summary - phenomenal, especially for a NEW hamfest. A BIG THANK YOU to DXE.

The hamfest comprised of an outdoor flea market located in the North and East paved parking lots; inside DXE selling of demo and open box items; and several information booths (e.g. AMSAT). At 12 Noon, DXE gave away a new Icom IC-9700 via a free raffle.

The flea market opened at 0630 for setup. There was already a line at 0615 when I arrived. The DXE Staff and volunteers were excellent (helpful, polite, friendly) during setup and throughout the hamfest. For the flea market you were provided one space to park your vehicle and one adjacent space to setup your equipment and items for sale. The parking spots were large - readily fit my Yukon XL (aka Suburban). One parking area was reserved for those with trailers and larger vehicles.

I estimate >100 flea market 'vendors' were setup. No commercial vendors were permitted (obvious reasons - not to detract from our host DXE). If you were not aware - FREE ADMISSION, FREE FLEA MARKET spaces. A lot of interesting items in the flea market and the usual items/sellers you see with the same gear from a year ago. It was nice from my perspective to see virtually every space with ham and electronic items versus inexpensive import trinkets seen at many hamfests.

Opened to the public at 0800. Very well attended, a 'buying crowd' versus just lookers. Ample paved parking for the public; on-site Tallmadge Police officers; inside bathroom as well as porta-johns outside; trash bins throughout, emptied during the event; on-site food wagon...

Most everyone I talked with were pleasantly surprised by the turn out. The weather was on our side, 60's in the early morning warming up to the 70's with low humidity.

A big thank you really needs to go out to DXE and Summit Racing - for coordinating and hosting this hamfest. Once again, everyone I spoke with are hoping this becomes an annual event.

DXE Hamfest Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager



Falls Creek, PA, August 18th, 2019 –

2019 Simulated Emergency Test – October 5th

Preparations are currently underway for this fall's Simulated Emergency Test. This year the SET is on Saturday, October 5th. Section ARES officials in Eastern and Western PA are working together to finalize plans for a joint EPA-WPA SET.

The 2019 SET will focus on interoperability and scalability, adding additional served agencies as the SET progresses, and dispatching ARESMAT teams to other locations. Participants will practice interoperability with other ARES teams, and serving several agencies simultaneously as would be done in an actual disaster.

The goal of initial planning is to release the final planning document the first week of September to DEC's and EC's.

Upcoming Hamfests and District Meetings

The next hamfests are Sunday, August 25th at the Skyview Clubhouse in New Kensington; The 70th Annual Uniontown Gabfest on Saturday August 31st at the W3PIE Clubhouse in Uniontown; The Butler County Hamfest is at the Unionville Firehouse on Mahood Road and Route 8 on Sunday, September 8th; and the Southwest District Meeting to be held at the Washington Hamfest at the Washington County Fairgrounds on Sunday November 3rd. As always, our ARRL exhibit will be at every hamfest. See you there!

2019 Scouting Jamboree On The AIR – October 19th-21st

The 2019 Scouting Jamboree On The Air will take place October 19th, 20th and 21st. WPA Section Youth Coordinator Bruce Gibson K3BEG (syc@wpa-arrrl.org) is looking to hear from groups and clubs planning to support this event.

Pennsylvania QSO Party – October 12th-13th

The 2019 **Pennsylvania QSO Party** will be held on October 12th and 13th. The bonus station will be K3SMT, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Somerset Amateur Radio Club.

Please visit <http://paqso.org> for Party information.

WPA Activities

Every Saturday morning we have been meeting on 60 meters on 5403.5 kilo-Hertz upper sideband following the end of the weekly WPA ARES Voice Net. (If that channel is in use, we use 5371.5 USB.)

We've been collecting signal reports for the past year, comparing them to the signals on 80 meters. We have gathered a significant amount of data, allowing us to analyze when and if 60 meters can support WPA Section-wide communications during times that 80 meters is unsatisfactory due to time of day and other propagation conditions.

The August 31st session will complete our year-long propagation study, and we thank all the participants for the valuable data you have helped gather.

WPA DMR

Our WPA Digital Voice Net meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm on talk group 31422. What better way for us in "Friendly Western PA" to enjoy our friendships while sharpening our technical skills! See you there!

73 and **Press ON!**

Links: [WPA ARRL Website](http://wpa-arrrl.org), [WPA ARRL Facebook Group](#)



Allegheny County ARES News

Bob Mente NU3Q

Carnegie, PA, August 25th, 2019 – I was recently appointed as the new EC for Allegheny County. There will be an Allegheny County ARES Meeting on September 21st per this link: <https://wpa-arrrl.org/2019/allegheny-county-ares-reorganization-meeting-21-september-red-cross-hq/>

Also: I will be implementing changes to the 9 PM Wednesday night Allegheny County ARES net on the 147.09 pl 88.5 repeater in the not too distant future to make it more engaging for all who check in. I plan to introduce a specific technical or operational amateur radio topic each week based on an article I read in QST magazine several years ago regarding same. I feel this change will make the net more enjoyable for all.

I would like each club to designate a specific individual or individuals as a "club liaison" to check into the net each week (and anyone from your club is welcome to check in as well). I will be visiting your respective clubs in the weeks to come to introduce myself and to meet each and every one of you. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to reach out to me as below.

Remember – I am here to serve you!



FCC Fines North Carolina Man for Unauthorized and Misleading Public Safety Transmissions

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 9th, 2019 – The FCC this week issued a \$39,278 [Forfeiture Order](#) against Ocean Hinson of Surry County, North Carolina, for intentional misuse of a local public safety radio communications network, in violation of §301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

"Mr. Hinson impersonated first responders in unauthorized radio communications on Surry County's licensed public safety frequency," the FCC said. "On October 17th, 2017, Surry County officials, responding to a fire alarm triggered at a local residence, transmitted a request for a unit from the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hinson, posing as 'Westfield VFD Unit 7331,' responded, using the mobile radio in his personal vehicle and stated that he was en route to the scene of the alarm. Approximately 4 minutes later, Mr. Hinson...cancelled the call. As a result of these two transmissions, no real first responder investigated the triggered residential fire alarm. Fortunately, no fire actually occurred at the scene of the alarm."



4U1UN News

Adria Ciuperca KO8SCA via Peter Dougherty W2IRT

UN HQ, New York, NY, August 25th, 2019 – We are receiving a lot of messages regarding the lack of 4U1UN (United Nation Amateur Radio Club) activity on the bands. We will try to clear some things about the current Club's activities.

Many of you do not know that after the renovation of the UNHQ building in New York, the room dedicated to the recreation area, on the 41st floor, in which the 4U1UN radio equipment was located, was transferred to the special UN unit - Broadcast and Conference Support Section. That room now is allocated to professional communications equipment. This was the only room technically suitable to be used for installing our gear, with easy access to the roof but after renovation it became off-limits for any other services, except BCSS.

Please do not think that UNARC members gave up and are doing nothing - believe me, almost daily communication has not been interrupted for the past seven years. After the successful activity of 4U7ØUN back in 2015, with the support of the UN Administration, we were able to secure a tiny 20-square-feet room for the Club's needs on the ground floor of the building. For obvious reasons, no one will give us the opportunity to run a separate coaxial cable from the ground floor to the 41st floor.

Considering the fact that the room, allocated for the Club, can be transferred to any other place at any time, we have developed a project for installing a remote station on the 41st floor.

The main difficulty in quick implementation of such project at the UNHQ is not political, but administrative and organizational. The BCSS is responsible for the security for all the UN communications equipment. They provide the entire UN communication (including emergency etc.) to all UN field locations around the World. There are communication repeaters, satellite links and other equipment, access to which is strictly limited. Only security personnel, authorized by this service, have permission to be there. Coordination of access to this room for club members (UN staff) at such a high level, takes several months to be approved, and the time allowed for work is limited to only one or two hours per visit.

If it were not for BCSS support, nothing would have been possible at all, even the placement of the beacon station and antenna! Imagine that you want to put a remotely controlled and unsupervised amateur radio station in the server room of the White House special communications service, and you will get the picture.

Every time we get access - we are accompanied by representatives of three different UN services, and only because none of us is giving up - the process of returning the UN amateur radio station in the air, although slowly, continues.

Now, some good news!

This Saturday, several members of the UN radio club, representatives of UN services and guests, once again got the opportunity to continue the configuration of equipment and its connections. Unfortunately, the assembled 19-inch rack and part of the equipment were disconnected during delivery to the 41st floor, including disassembling of the power amplifier. This is mainly because the BCSS personnel needed to hand carry all the equipment several flights of stairs to the top floor. The ACOM-2000A amplifier fully assembled is very heavy, so its disassembling was certainly needed.

After four hours of work, the connections of the SteppIR BigIR vertical antennas were restored, a new SDA-100 controller was installed and a RemoteRig 1216H was connected for easy remote access. The antenna was tested and configured. Remote access from the first floor works (special thanks for the separately run Ethernet cable over the entire height of the building, for the use of the Radio Club). The operation of the ACOM-2000A amplifier with an antenna was tested.

While we were testing, we realized that our Elecraft K3 needed to be disconnected and sent for repair. Apparently, due to the lack of the ability to retract BigIR antenna earlier, static discharges damaged the K3 power control board. Updating/re-installing of the K3 firmware didn't helped. Let's hope for a speedy recovery of the transceiver after treatment at Elecraft!

We really hope that in the very near future, after debugging and setting up all the equipment, we will finally be able to proudly look at the work done and begin to appear steadily on the bands; and you will be able to get ATNO with the UNHQ!

To be continued!

Thanks to everyone involved, especially to:

James Sarte K2QI UNARC President
Philip Dale G6CBR UNARC
UN Security Staff
UN BCSS Staff
Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA



DX News Briefs



The **ZK3A** 2019 Tokealu DXpedition from OC-048 has announced after the DXpedition, they will be donating their equipment to the Amateur Radio Club in Tokealu. They will be activating all three islands, and subsequently, the ARCT will then have a different call for each island: **ZK3RA** (Atafu), **ZK3RF** (Fakaofu), and **ZK3RN** (Nukunonu). Each of these donated stations will have a TS-590S, 800 W amplifier, and antennas, and will be running from solar panels and generators (again, all part of the donation). More information available at <https://tokelau2019.com/> QSL via YT1AD

IV3TMM is QRV as **9U3TMM** through 17 September, 60 – 6, SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via IV3TMM.

DDØVR will be QRV as **3D2VR** 2 – 9 September and 23 – 27 September, 80 – 6. He will also be QRV during September from **5WØVR** from 9 – 16 September, and **A35JY** from 16 – 21 September. QSL via DDØVR

A team from Poland will be QRV as **EXØQP** from Kyrgyzstan, 2 – 15 September, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via SP6QJK

JT7A will be QRV 5 – 9 September on various HF bands, CW SSB FT4 and FT8. QSL via RAØSMS

T88PB will again be QRV from 6 – 9 September, 160 – 6 CW & FT8, during his current stint with **Doctors Without Borders**. More information at <http://www.pandasan.jimdo.com> QSL via JAØJHQ

E6AN will be QRV from OC-040 Nieu Island 7 – 10 September, Holiday Style, primarily 40 – 15 with possibly some other bands, primarily FT8 & SSB, possibly some CW. More info at <http://www.oz5e.dk> QSL via OZ5E

EA6/U2IBU will be QRV 7 – 13 September, 80 – 10, SSB, Holiday Style. QSL via U2IBU

LA7GIA will again be QRV as **6Ø7O** 14 – 28 September, 160 – 10, primarily CW. More information at <https://www.la7gia.com/where-next/> QSL via MØOXO or ClubLog.

AA3B will be at **V26K** 8 – 20 September. Operation will be sporadic as he will be working on station maintenance, but look for Bud on HF CW. QSL via AA3B

5H3MB will again be QRV 25 September – 28 October, in his free time, SSB CW & RTTY on HF. QSL via IK2GZU

NN5E will be QRV as **V31CC** 5 – 12 October, 80 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via NN5E

NP4Z will be QRV as **V43Z** from NA-104 26 – 27 October during the CQ WW DX Contest. QSL via N4AO.

ZL1BQD will be QRV as **8Ø7XR** from AS-013 10 November – 30 December, 80 – 10, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via ZL1BQD. (This is a re-issued call)

QSL Routes

3D2VR via DDØVR	EXØQP via SP6QJK	SP6ØDXC via SP7DQR
3ZØR via SP9SX	GJ4YØX via GU4YØX	SP75WA via SP5WA
4U5ØØM via UA3DX	HF8ØWIELUN via SP7KED	TM1ØSRY via F5KCC
5B4ALX via IZ4AMS	G1A via MØNKR	TM5MFL via F6KJX
5H3DX via NK8O	GB1ØØHAL via GØKUC	V26K via AA3B
5H3MB via IK1GZU	IQ3GO via IV3AZV	V31CC via NN5E
5WØVR via DDØVR	IQ9DE via IW9CTJ	V43Z via N4AO
9U3TMM via IV3TMM	JT7A via RAØSMS	YQ8T via YO8KGA
8Q7XR via ZL1BQD	LX75V via LX1JH	YR2Ø19SIMPO via YO3KAA
A35JY via DDØVR	LZ3Ø4AE via LZ1KCP	YU73BFG via YU8A
DL7ØAFUG via DM4EAX	MM2N via MMØGPZ	ZK3A via YT1AD
E6AN via OZ5E	S92HP via CT1ENW	ZW5ARCCO via PY6TV
EIØNMMI via EI6AL	SI3A via SM3LIV	
EO28U via UR8US	SP4ØWOJTEK via SQ4AVD	
ET3AA via N2ØO		

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

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Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage



Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

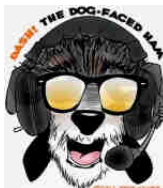
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

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US Amateurs by Class as of August 31st, 2019:

	Novice	9,283
	Technician	414,962
	General	189,437
	Advanced	42,697
	Extra	154,336
	Club	12,723
	Total	823,438
All-Time High	02/11/2019	825,088

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	6,732
	Callsign Changes	2,533
	Class Changes	3,008

No Longer Licensed	6,225
All Updates (*)	26,920

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com



Has Roadway found the tower yet?



Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 16th, 2019 – An FCC Report and Order (**R&O**) released August 2nd in the so-called "small satellite" rulemaking proceeding, IB Docket 18-86, failed to address concerns expressed by ARRL and AMSAT. Both organizations filed comments on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (**NPRM**) in the proceeding last year, seeking changes in the FCC's interpretations and procedures affecting satellites operating on Amateur Satellite Service frequencies.

"These comments address topics outside the scope of this proceeding, and we decline to adopt any of the requested rule modifications or updates at this time," the FCC said in the **R&O**. The FCC did mention amateur satellites in its 2018 **NPRM**, explaining what they are and describing the documentation and authorization process, but it did not solicit comments.

"The Commission did not seek comment in the **NPRM** on any modifications or updates to the rules governing Experimental or amateur satellite licensing. The streamlined Part 25 small satellite process adopted in the **Order** is an alternative to existing license processes and does not replace or modify the authorization procedures for satellites currently contained in Parts 5, 25, or 97 of the Commission's rules," the FCC explained. "Nevertheless, we received a number of comments in response to the **NPRM**, particularly regarding the rules applicable to amateur satellite operations, suggesting that aspects of those rules be improved or clarified."

In its 2018 **NPRM**, the FCC had said, "Because the type of operations that qualify as amateur [is] narrowly defined, an amateur satellite authorization will not be appropriate for many small satellite operations."

In its 2018 **comments**, ARRL said it wanted the FCC to preclude exploitation of amateur spectrum by commercial small-satellite users authorized under Part 5 Experimental rules and suggested that the FCC adopt a "a bright line test" to define and distinguish satellites that should be permitted to operate under Amateur Satellite rules.

ARRL's position was to support and encourage college and university Amateur Radio experiments where the sponsor of the experiment is a licensed radio amateur and all operation in amateur spectrum is compliant with Part 97. Part 5 Experimental authorizations for satellites intended to operate in amateur allocations by non-amateur sponsors should be discouraged, absent a compelling show of need, ARRL told the FCC.

The International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**) announced in 2017 that it would no longer coordinate non-amateur satellite operations unless directed to do so by the national administration, and it adopted new satellite frequency coordination guidelines that require educational and university satellites to have an identified amateur component. AMSAT's comments reflected many of the same concerns that ARRL had expressed.

The FCC on August 26th announced that it had entered into a **Consent Decree** to resolve an investigation into whether the lighting fixture business Seasons 4 Inc., of Toano, Virginia, violated FCC rules by marketing LED products as the company S4 Lights without the required equipment authorization, labeling, and user manual disclosures, and by failing to produce certain required test records.

"These rules ensure that radio frequency devices marketed in the United States do not interfere with authorized communications, thereby maintaining network integrity and security and protecting consumers," the FCC said.

As part of the resolution, S4 Lights admits that it violated FCC rules, will implement a compliance plan, and will pay a \$25,000 civil penalty. Investigation concerned S4 Lights' compliance with equipment authorization, labeling, user manual disclosure, and record retention rules in effect at the time of the violations, which included Parts 15 and 2 and Section 302(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

According to the Consent Decree, the investigation stemmed from a 2017 complaint that a Christmas tree display using S4 Lights products at the Columbus, Ohio, Zoo and Aquarium had caused harmful interference to authorized wireless communications in Powell, Ohio. Some of the rules in effect at the time the violations occurred were subsequently amended, effective on November 2nd 2017.

As a result of the Consent Decree, S4 Lights avoids a hearing into the question of its basic qualifications to hold or obtain any FCC license or authorization.

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and the automation should take care of the rest!

ARRL HF Band Planning Committee Reactivated to Address Spectrum Issues

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 28th, 2019 – In an effort to more effectively address HF digital technology issues, ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, has reactivated the ARRL Board of Directors' HF Band Planning Committee. The six-member panel, chaired by First Vice President Greg Widin KØGW, will primarily focus on spectrum allocation issues that have gained increased visibility with discussions on accommodating automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) — many employing [Winlink](#) email. The committee will also discuss operating frequencies for FT4, FT8, and other digital modes. Widin says the committee will meet next week to chart its course. Reactivation of the HF Band Planning Committee came out of discussions during the July 2019 ARRL Board meeting.

"ARRL is not trying to shut down digital communication or shut down Winlink in particular," Widin said, adding that ARRL recognizes Winlink's proven track record in emergency communication. His committee also will consider Winlink supporters' calls for the expansion of the ACDS segments spelled out in §97.221(b) of the amateur rules.

"This is not an easy task by any means," Widin allowed. "They're not making more bandwidth." He said this is especially a problem on 40 meters.

"We're well aware that Winlink is the *de facto* standard supporting emergency communications in many parts of the country, but we have to figure out how it can operate with other modes, so that everybody can communicate," Widin said, "without having one mode overrun any other mode." The committee will not address data encryption questions at this point, however.

In response to ARRL's 2013 petition to delete the so-called "symbol rate" limit and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz below 29.7 MHz, the FCC [proposed](#) to eliminate symbol rate (baud rate) limitations for data transmissions but declined to propose a bandwidth limitation.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors called for ARRL's Washington Counsel to obtain FCC approval for several Part 97 rule changes. The Board asked for a rulemaking petition to remove the current 300 baud rate limitation; authorize all ACDS below 30 MHz, regardless of bandwidth, to operate only within the ACDS bands designated in §97.221(b); require digital stations operating with a bandwidth greater than 500 Hz to operate within the ACDS bands, whether or not automatically controlled, and limit the maximum bandwidth of digital signals below 29 MHz to 2.8 kHz.

ARRL-initiated mediation efforts for rival parties to reach consensus on all or some of the issues raised in the "symbol rate" proceeding ended a few days prior to the July Board meeting. While those discussion were useful, no consensus among parties was reached for FCC consideration. Widin said some positions may have been too divergent to find viable middle ground.

"We still want to change the symbol rate limitation into a bandwidth limitation, which makes a lot more sense in terms of current and future modes," Widin said. The panel also hopes to work with the WSJT-X Development Group to establish FT4 frequencies compatible with existing band plans.

Widin further suggested that his committee will have to look beyond the current landscape of HF digital modes into what might lie ahead.

Inter-American Proposal Removes 47—47.2 GHz from Bands under Study for 5G Services

American Radio Relay League, Jon Silverling WB3ERA, Bryan Rawlings VE3QN

Newington, CT, August 21st, 2019 – The 34th meeting of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission ([CITEL](#)) Permanent Consultative Committee II ([PCC.II](#)) concluded a week of meetings on August 16th in Ottawa, Canada, in advance of World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19). The meetings were aimed at reaching regional consensus on WRC-19 agenda items. Attendees at PCC.II included ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Silverling WB3ERA, who is on the US delegation to WRC-19.

"The big news is that the Inter-American Proposal (IAP) going forward to ITU from CITEL countries has removed the 47 – 47.2 GHz Amateur Radio allocation from WRC-19 agenda item 1.13," Silverling said. "We are putting forward a 'no change' proposal." Supported by 13 member-states, the IAP would take frequencies in that range off the table for possible sharing with 5G International Mobile Telephony (IMT). Silverling conceded that other administrations could raise the issue at WRC-19.

The International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) was to conduct and complete appropriate studies to determine spectrum needs for the IMT terrestrial component in the 24.25 – 86 GHz range, and studies on sharing and compatibility, while taking into account the protection of services with primary allocations on the band. ITU-R has not conducted any sharing studies between the IMT-2020 systems and incumbent Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite services. "Therefore, it has not been demonstrated that the incumbent services can be protected, as required by Resolution 238 (WRC-15), and No Change is proposed for the 47 – 47.2 GHz frequency band," the IAP said.

Fourteen administrations signed on to an IAP that voices no objection to an Amateur Radio allocation at 50 – 54 MHz in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the Mideast, and Africa).

Under WRC-19 agenda item 10 (future agenda items), language to protect the Amateur Radio primary 50 – 54 MHz allocation was included in a US proposal to study implementing space-based Earth Exploration Satellite Service (EESS) radars to operate in the 40 – 50 MHz range, in time for WRC-23, recognizing that 50 – 54 MHz is primary in Regions 2 and 3, with an alternative primary Amateur Service allocation in a number of Region 1 countries.

Also under agenda item 10, the frequency segment 47 – 47.2 GHz was removed from a proposal to study several additional frequency ranges for the Fixed Satellite Service (FSS).

Twelve member-states agreed to an IAP that supports no change to the existing allocation at 5725 – 5850 MHz, and 18 member states supported no change in the 5850 – 5925 MHz segment in the face of calls to consider these bands for higher power and outdoor wireless access points. The US and Canada are among countries with a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5650 – 5925 MHz.

Language in a Canadian contribution, with additions from the US delegation, was added regarding WRC-19 agenda item 9.1.6, which seeks to identify frequencies for medium- and high-power wireless charging of electric vehicles (WPT-EV). Delegates to PCC.II forwarded an IAP of No Change to the *Radio Regulations*. The wording emphasizes the requirement to properly set standards to avoid harmful interference to radio services from WPT-EV systems: "[A]s wireless power transmission and technology for electric vehicles continues to evolve, the protection of existing, planned, and future radiocommunication services against harmful interference, including unwanted emissions and harmonics, must be ensured. This can be achieved through further studies and the development or updating of applicable ITU-R recommendations and reports."

The recent CITEL meeting was the last prior to WRC-19, which will be October 28th – November 22nd in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.



Butler County ARA Swapfest 2019

Sunday, September 8th, 2018, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

102 Mahood Road (at Route 8 North), Butler, PA 16001

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.w3udx.org>



Two Rivers ARC Hamfest 2020

Sunday, March 29th, 2020, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

McKeesport Palisades and Event Center

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 PL 131.8 Admission \$5.00

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



WACOM HAMFEST 2019

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 N. Main Street, Washington PA 15301

Sunday, November 3rd

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (131.8 PL)



First Prize: ICOM IC-7300 HF & 6 M Transceiver
Second Prize: ICOM IC-2730A
Third Prize: Yaesu FTM-3200DR
Fourth Prize: Kenwood TM-281A
Other Prizes To Be Announced

Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Black Box: What is it? It's a Mystery!
— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

VE Testing starting at 9:00 AM

Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Available

Check www.wacomarc.org for Updates



For More Information contact:

Tom Wright KC3TOM

117 Perry Rd., Burgettstown PA 15021

(412) 414-5627 kc3tom@arrl.net

The sale of illegal amplifiers or Adult Material
is strictly prohibited



WASHfest 2020

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Sunday, February 23rd, 2020
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Home Economics Building, South Park

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129
Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
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MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!

First Prize: FlexRadio Flex-6400M with Antenna Tuner
Second Prize: TBA
Third Prize: TBA

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20, 40 for \$50, 90 for \$100

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes



For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2020.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2020 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance ten years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

5 Or More Tables w/o: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2020
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____)
(check one)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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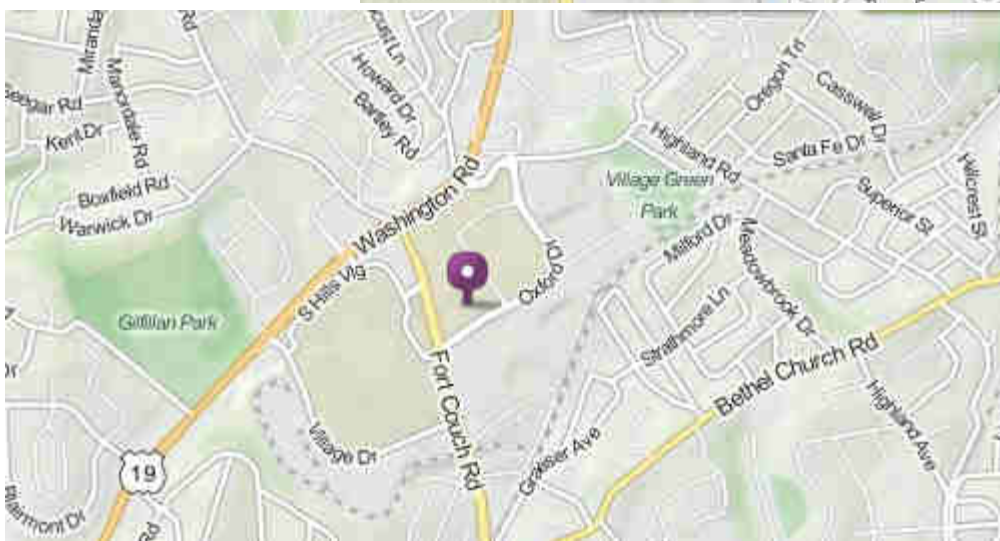
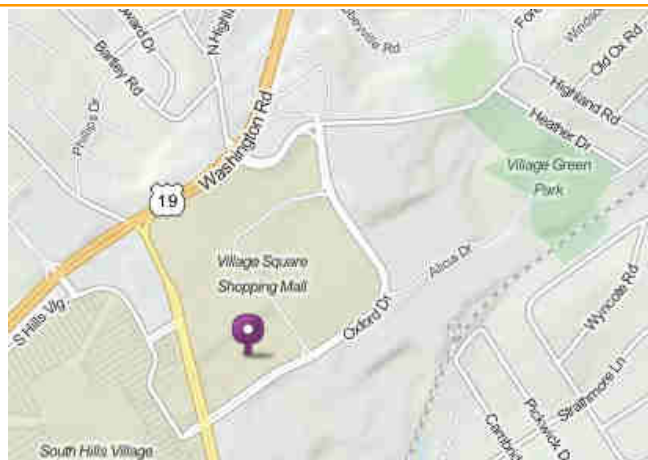


2019 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
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